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same time; are to keep the same speed, and to form a line with the person to whom the cord is attached.

A patent for an invention similar in its nature has been taken out by Mr. Hull, of Kingston upon Hull. In his mode, a cord goes round a drum, on the axle of the spinning wheel, as in the former plan; but instead of being attached to the spinner, it goes over a pully above the wheel, traverses to the end of the rope-walk, passes there over another pully, and is again returned to the drum, having both ends fastened together so as to form an endless band, on which band are fastened two pieces of red cloth, to serve as marks to the spinners, by which they are to regulate their pace, as it proceeds to the end of the rope-walk, always keeping in a line with it across the walk as nearly as they can.

Description of an Air Jacket and shoes, to assist Swimming; invented by Mr. William Cobb, of Swithin's-lane, London.

THE Jacket is to be made of leather or any other pliable substance that will hold air, with pieces sewed on the back and sides, bigger than them, so as to hang loose and hollow, to form a bag for the reception of air, with which it is to be inflated by a pipe fixed to it for this purpose. The Jacket is to be buttoned before, and also to be fastened to the waist-band of the breeches with buttons. It was to have a bag annexed to it called the air receptacle, into which the air was to pass first on its way to the hollow parts of the Jacket. The swimming shoes are made of pieces of wood, of the shape of the sole of a shoe, with other pieces fastened to them by hinges and joints covered, with leather, so as to open and shut like a swan's foot in swimming.

Useful swimming belts may be made by running waste bottle corks, close together length ways on strings, 12 or 14 of which strings of length sufficient to go round the body, will form a belt of sufficient buoyancy to support a man in the water. The strings of cork would be best enclosed in a case of oil-cloth, furnished with bands for fastening it over the shoulders and between the legs.

DETACHED ANECDOTES, &c.

TROUBADOURS.

DURING the decline of chivalry, that distant adoration which had formerly been paid to the fair sex, gradually gave way to a devotion more tender and less magnificent. The women ceased to be idols of worship, and became objects of love. The times prone to corruption were not to resist their vivacity, their graces, their power to please. Love seemed to become the sole business of life.

The talents which of old recorded the deeds of valour, and the achievements of war, were now devoted to the fair. In every country of Europe, the Poet or the *Troubadour*, was to consecrate to them his homage and his songs. And to the fashions of gallantry, the rise of literature is to be ascribed. Men of genius, and men who fancied they possessed it, resorted to the courts of Princes, and to the palaces of the Nobles; and the praise which they knew how to lavish got them attention and patronage. To make verses was the road to preferment. No lady was without her poet. Nor was poetry the exercise only, of those who wished to better their fortunes: while it was to give riches and respect to the obscure, it was to be an ornament and an honour to the great. Princes, and Barons, as well as Knights and Gentlemen, found it the surest recommendation to their mistresses: they sung their charms, their disdain, and their rigours. Even the artificial tenderness of the poet, often grew into reality; and the fair one who at first listened only to praise, was at length compelled to yield to passion. The adulation paid to beauty, disposed it to approve; complaints led to pity, pity to love.

Religion, which must ever mix in human affairs, is oftener to debase,

than enlighten. It is for the most part a mass of superstitions, which encourage the weaknesses of mankind. This was the case with Christianity, in the darkness of the middle times. The votaries of beauty did not scruple to address the Deity, to soften its obstinacy. In the heat of intrigue, they invoked the Trinity and the Saints for success. The profaneness of gallantry distorted and deformed even the meditations of the most pious. The devotee was to seek a mistress in heaven: he was to look up to the Virgin, with the eyes of a lover, and to contemplate the beauties of her person, and the graces of her carriage. What is still more extravagant, the felicities of futurity seemed a trifle unworthy of acceptance, without the contacts and vanities of an irreverent courtesy. "I would not" said a *Troubadour*, "be in Paradise, but on the condition of making love to her whom I adore."

GEOGRAPHICAL ACUMEN IN A LONDONER.

A Gentleman some time ago went into a celebrated Mathematical &c. instrument shop in London, and inquired the price of a handsome pair of globes, he saw there. A genteel looking young man answered him. In the course of the inquiry, the purchaser asked, what the probable expense would be of freight, duty, &c. to Belfast. "Belfast, sir, Belfast!! Pray, sir," asks this *intelligent* maker of globes, "an't that in *Yorkshire*."

AN UNEXPECTED INVITATION.

Toward the conclusion of the American war, a Scottish member, more remarkable for a powerful eloquence, than for fine English pronunciation, in the course of a speech said, "I will not give my *support* to a *cabal*; I will give my *support* to administration." This declaration (the part he meant to take having before been dubious) produced a marked sensation with a cry of "Hear, hear," which excited the curiosity of a member just then entering. Turning to old Pearson the door-keeper, who happened to be at his elbow, he asked, what the speaking member had said. "I don't know," replied Pearson, "what he has been talking about: only I just heard him say, he would give a *ball* and *supper* to administration."

MONEY LENDERS.

The arts of these pests of society are little known; among their other impositions on the distressed, they oblige them to enter into an engagement to take half the money they are to receive in goods; promising they shall have them to the full value, and of articles of merchandize actually on sale. Mrs. Wells having in 1792, occasion to borrow 500*l.* in this manner, gave her note for the sum, after the deduction of an immense discount, the interest, premium, agency, expense of writings, &c. she got the small remainder of the half in cash, and for the other 250*l.* they obliged her to take Nos. of Stackhouse's History of the Bible, a thing advertized probably for the purpose of such an imposition, it not being of greater value than so much waste paper.

DERIVATION OF THE WORD CANT.

Mr. *Alexander Cant*, son to Mr *Andrew Cant*, of Edinburgh, who in his Discourse de Excommunicato Trucidando, maintained that all refusers of the covenant ought to be excommunicated, and that all so excommunicated might be lawfully killed, was lately deposed by the Synod for divers seditious and impudent passages in his Sermons at several places.

From these two *Cants* (Andrew and Alexander) all seditious praying and preaching is called canting.

CABINET COUNCILS.

The first footsteps of a Cabinet council in any European Government were in the reign of Charles the ninth of France when he did not venture to entrust his council with his intention of massacreing the Hugonots, he chose a few men whom he called his Cabinet Council. Formerly in England, all matters were debated and resolved in the privy council, where every man subscribed his opinion, and was answerable for it. This part of the Constitution was broken by Charles first, but more notoriously by his successor, who settled a Cabal or Cabinet Council, where all matters of consequence were resolved and then brought to the privy Council to be confirmed.

AGNES SOREL.

The successes of the French, in expelling the English invaders from their kingdom, during the minority of Henry VI. is not to be solely attributed to the military prowess of the maid of Orleans. Some part is justly due to Agnes Sorel, the beautiful and high-spirited mistress to Charles. She used her powerful influence over him to rouse him from the indolence and luxury to which he was naturally inclined. At one time she went so far as to threaten to seek a new lover in the English camp; "for there," said she, "there are men who can gain kingdoms, and who deserve the fairest women." A circumstance more extraordinary, though it has little relation to politics is, that she lived on terms of the strictest amity with Mary of Anjou, the wife of Charles.

A GOOD KING.

Lewis XII. of France, was universally styled the father of his people. He was parsimonious, but it was because he would not tax his subjects; and when told that there were farces written to ridicule his sparingness, he observed, "it is better that they should laugh at me, than curse me."

ROYAL FOOLS.

When Charles V. was at the court of Francis in the course of his adventurous journey through France to the Netherlands, the latter of these princes observed Triboulet, his jester writing Charles's name on his tablets: he asked him the reason; "This is my list of fools," said Triboulet, "I have placed *him* there for asking to pass through France." "But," said Francis, "he shall pass in safety," "Good," "replied the other," then I shall erase *his* name and insert *yours* in its room.

EXTEMPORE OF MARGARET OF AUSTRIA.

Margaret of Austria had been affianced to Charles VIII. of France, who rejected her for Anne of Brittany; in 1497, she was overtaken by a violent storm in her passage to join a second husband, John, son of Ferdinand and Isabella. In the most imminent danger she had presence of mind to compose for herself the following humorous epitaph.

Ci git Margot, la gente demoiselle
Qui ait deux maris, et si mourut pucelle.
The princess Margaret here is laid,
Who married twice, yet died a maid.

ORIGINAL LANGUAGE.

Those versed in antient history will remember the experiment tried by one of the Ptolemies for ascertaining the original language of mankind. It is recorded by Lindsay, that James the IVth of Scotland made a similar attempt: "he gar't take a dumb woman, and put her into Inch-keith, and gave her two bairns in company with her; and gar't furnish them with all necessaries, meat, drink, fire and clothes; with all other kind of necessaries, which are required for man or woman, desiring to know what language their bairns would speak when they came to lawful age. Some say they spake *good Hebrew*, but as to myself," adds the Reporter, "I know not, but by the author's report."

ENGLISH HEROISM.

At the siege of Hennebond in Brittany, a very gallant and romantic action was achieved by a detachment of the English in garrison there. Sir John Butler and Sir Mathew Trelawny, although prisoners of war had been doomed to die, in compliment to the earnest request of Don Lewis of Spain, who had been insulted by the men of Hennebond, and had sworn "by God and St. Jago, that their heads should be taken off in sight of the town as soon as he had dined." This was made known to the great Sir Walter Manny; who, sallying out with six hundred chosen men, penetrated to the tent of Charles de Blois, and rescued the two English knights, who were already blindfolded, and had their hands tied behind them, in order for their instant execution.

ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE.

There is no authentic account of an University at Cambridge till the year 1110, when Joffrid abbot of Croyland sent one Gislebert a divine, and three others to teach the Sciences. These monks coming to Cambridge hired a barn to teach in, and in a year's time their audience so encreased, that no house or barn was big enough to contain them. From this slender beginning the university of Cambridge soon grew up to a noble seat of learning. The first college, that of Peterhouse, was founded by Hugh Balsham, bishop of Ely, in 1284.